



AMY SUE VRUWINK

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TO: Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources

FROM: Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink

RE: Assembly Bill: 574 Gator Bill For Ag. Purposes

Colleagues, as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture and as lead author of Assembly Bill 574, I am seeking your support on this very important legislation for our agriculture and rural communities.

Assembly Bill 574 relating to: lightweight utility vehicles and providing a penalty.

This legislation does two things:

1. It uses the current definition of a Lightweight Utility Vehicle (defined as an engine-driven device having a gross weight of more than 700 pounds but no more than 1,999 pounds that is designed to travel on four or more low-pressure tires, is equipped with a cargo area) and expands the definition to EXCLUDE any device that is equipped with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator. This was used to primarily because many LUV's have two seats, set side-by-side. ATV's usually are manufactured with a seat meant to be straddled.

2. This bill authorizes limited purpose operation of these lightweight utility vehicles on highways. A person may operate in the conduct of agricultural operations an LUV on a highway, including the roadway or the shoulder of the highway, to cross the highway or to travel on the highway. A person driving an LUV on a highway is required to exercise due care, avoid interfering with the movement of other traffic, and, when operating on the roadway, operate as close as he or she can to the right-hand edge of the roadway. Any use of an LUV on a highway other than as provided in this bill is strictly prohibited.

For safety purposes to both motorists and individuals using LUV's, these vehicles must have head lamps and tail lamps if operated at night, must have at least one stop (brake) lamp, and must be equipped with a slow moving vehicle emblem. In regards to registration, this bill is not required to be registered with DOT and is exempt from vehicle emission inspection requirements.

Groups in Support: Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association
Milwaukee Police Association

The intent of this legislation is to allow our agricultural industry the opportunity to use LUV's for agricultural purposes without the threat or concern that they will be driving in violation of current state law which prohibits them from being used on a highway or roadway. I would be honored to have your support for this legislation.